

from a spool [(8)], and a cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)] arranged downstream of the control [means (2, 4)] member and capable of being operated to lacerate [said] the film, the assembly further comprising, downstream of the cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)], [means (11)] a member for preventing the return of the film in the direction opposite to the one in which it leaves the assembly. The cutting procedure in accordance with the invention envisages, following an initial stop of the film during which it is lacerated, the unlocking of the control [means (2, 4)] member to permit the laceration zone to pass downstream of the return preventing [means (11)] member, and then a new stop of the film to complete the cut following [the] relative motion between the assembly and the goods/products to be packed.

[(Fig.1)]

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend page 11, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

- - **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:** - -

[CLAIMS]

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) An assembly for unrolling stretch film from a spool [(8)] and pre-stretching the film as it is fed from the assembly towards the goods/products to be wrapped, comprising [control means (2, 4)] a member for controlling the forward movement of [said] the film downstream of [said] the spool [(8)] and a cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)] for lacerating [said] the film, arranged downstream of [said] the control [means (2, 4)] member, the assembly being characterized in that, downstream of [said] the cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)], it comprises [means (11)] a member for preventing the return of the film in the direction opposite to the one in which it leaves the assembly.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The assembly [according to] set forth in claim 1, wherein [said] the return preventing [means (11)] member comprises two rubber-covered rollers [(11)] rotating in opposite directions, arranged in contact with each other in such a way as to allow the film to pass between them and provided with [means] a member for preventing them from rotating in the direction opposite to the one in which the film leaves the assembly.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The assembly [according to] set forth in claim 2, wherein [said] the rotation preventing [means] member comprises drawn cup roller clutches on which [said] the rollers [(11)] are mounted.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The assembly [according to any of the previous] set forth in claim[s] 1, wherein [said] the cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)] comprises an arm [(13)] hinged at an intermediate position in such a way as to be able to undergo an angular displacement in a plane crossing the plane in which the film lies as it leaves the assembly, and a blade [(14)] projecting transversely from one [a]end of [said] the arm, [said] the arm being capable of moving angularly between an [cutting] operative position, in which [said] the blade [(14)] perforates the film, and a [rest] stowed position in which the blade [(14)] does not interfere with the film, there being provided an actuator [means (16, 17)] for controlling the angular displacement of the arm.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The assembly [according to] set forth in claim 4, wherein [said] the actuator[s (16, 17)] comprises a pair of linear electromagnetic actuators [(16, 17)] acting on, respectively, the end of [said] the arm [(13)] opposite the one that bears [said] the blade [(14)] and a point intermediate between the blade [(14)] and the hinge point of the arm [(13)], so that [said cutting] the operative position and [said rest] the stowed position are determined by appropriately opposite forward/backward configurations of [said] the actuators.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The assembly [according to] set forth in claim 4 [or claim 5], wherein [said] the arm [(13)] with [said] the blade [(14)] and [said] the actuator [means (16, 17)] are housed in[side] a casing [(10b)], in which a slot [(15)] is formed to permit [said] the blade to project at least partially from the casing [(10b)] in

[said] the cutting position.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The assembly [according to any of the previous] set forth in claim[s] 1, wherein [said] the cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)] and [said] the return preventing [means (11)] member are supported by a frame [(10)] that [can be] is detach[ed]able from the rest of the assembly.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A method for cutting stretch film fed by an assembly for unrolling and pre-stretching the film toward[s] goods/products to be wrapped due to the effect of relative movement between [said] the merchandise/products and [said] the assembly, the latter comprising [means (2, 4)] a member for controlling the unwinding of the film from a spool [(8)] and [means (13, 14)] a cutter for [cutting] severing the film, [in which] the method comprising the steps of bringing the film [is brought] to a halt by locking the control [means] member, and simultaneously operating the cutt[ing]er so as [means (13) are simultaneously operated] to the lacerate [said] the film, the cut being completed due to [the effect of the] stretching of the film following the wrapping movement, the method [being characterized in that said control means (2)] further comprising the step of unlocking the control member, following [the execution of the] laceration by [said] the cutt[ing]er [means (13, 14)], [are unlocked] so as to permit the laceration to pass generally downstream of [means (11)] a member for preventing the return of the film in the direction opposite the one in which it leaves the assembly, the film then being [then] brought to a halt [again] by [means of] the control [means (2)] member in order to complete the cut.